

### Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus to normalize <sup>an encoder</sup> the information in a file, as shared between a variety of software applications working on the file, the apparatus comprising: a source Encapsulated PostScript (EPS) file, whereby the EPS file contains unstructured information required to create a printed document containing graphics images;

at least a first conversion module for automatically converting the source EPS file to a Portable Document Format (PDF) file using a first set of predefined parameter settings, ~~whereby the file is structured using a PDF library of functions;~~

A2 <sup>unchanged</sup> at least a second conversion module for automatically converting the PDF file to a <sup>encoder</sup> normalized EPS file having a consistent format for the information therein using a second set of predefined parameter settings ~~having a shared data structure~~, whereby <sup>unchanged</sup> a variety of software applications can use the ~~shared data structure~~ information therein to access the normalized EPS file in a printing operation.

(16) ✓ 17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~Claim~~ claim 16, wherein the software applications access the normalized file in an automated manner.

C10 ✓ 18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~Claim~~ claim 16, wherein the normalization of the information is performed as ~~a prior~~ an automated, hosted Prepress operation to the printing operation.

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C1, C9 19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~Claim~~ claim 16, wherein the normalized EPS file ~~includes~~ is a ASCH Level 1 PostScript file.

C10 ✓ 20. (New) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the first and second sets of predefined parameter settings include color settings, whereby the normalized EPS file includes a consistent format for color information.

Server 110

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a PostScript interpreter for converting the EPS file.

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22. (New) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a PDF library for converting the PDF file.

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23. (New) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a database accessible by the automated printing system, wherein the first and second sets of predefined parameter settings are stored in the database.

Server 110

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a file server accessible by the automated printing system, wherein the EPS file, the PDF file and the normalized EPS file are stored on the file server.

25. (New) An apparatus for normalizing the color information in an encapsulated PostScript (EPS) file within an automated printing system, the apparatus comprising:

a database accessible by the automated printing system, the database comprising predefined color settings for color parameters; and

a processor configured to:

receive a request from a client software application to normalize the EPS file;

receive the EPS file;

retrieve a first set of the color settings from the database;

convert the EPS file to a Portable Document Format (PDF) file using the first set of color settings;

retrieve a second set of the color settings from the database; and

convert the PDF file to a normalized EPS file using the second set of color settings, whereby consistent color settings are maintained for the normalized EPS file.

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the processor performs the normalization of the color information in the EPS file using an automated, hosted prepress application.

Ar 27. (New) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the normalized EPS file is a level 1 PostScript file.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the processor converts the EPS file using a PostScript interpreter.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the processor converts the PDF file using a PDF library.

30. (New) The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising a file server accessible by the automated printing system, wherein the EPS file, the PDF file and the normalized EPS file are stored on the file server.

Oh<sup>5</sup> 31. (New) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the processor is further configured to:

parse the normalized EPS file and the consistent color settings;

locate inks used in the normalized EPS file; and

compare the located inks against a database of inks to validate the located inks, whereby the normalized EPS file allows the validation to be performed.

32. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the first and second sets of predefined parameter settings represent a set of policies regarding the normalization of the EPS file.

33. (New) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the first and second sets of predefined parameter settings are defined to enable the preview of the normalized EPS file or the printing of the normalized EPS file.

34. (New) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the processor comprises:

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a first conversion software module for converting the EPS file, and

a second conversion software module for converting the PDF file.

35. (New) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the first and second sets of color settings represent a set of policies regarding the normalization of the EPS file.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the first and second sets of color settings are defined to enable the preview of the normalized EPS file or the printing of the normalized EPS file.

37. (New) An apparatus for normalizing an encapsulated PostScript (EPS) file, the apparatus comprising:

a database of parameter settings representing predetermined policies for normalizing the EPS file; and

a processor configured to:

save the policies as in a database;

receive a request from a client software application to normalize the EPS file;

retrieve a first set of the parameter settings from the database;

automatically execute a first conversion software module to convert the EPS file to a Portable Document Format (PDF) file using the first set of parameter settings;

retrieve a second set of the parameter settings from the database; and

automatically execute a second conversion software module to convert the PDF file to a normalized EPS file using the second set of parameter settings.

38. (New) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the parameter settings are defined to enable the preview of the normalized EPS file or the printing of the normalized EPS file.

39. (New) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the processor normalizes the EPS file according to a hosted Prepress application.

40. (New) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the normalized EPS file is a Level I PostScript file.

41. (New) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the parameter settings include color settings, whereby the normalized EPS file includes a consistent format for color information.

42. (New) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the processor automatically executes the first conversion software module by using a PostScript interpreter to convert the EPS file.

43. (New) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the processor automatically executes the second conversion software module by using a PDF library to convert the PDF file.

44. (New) The apparatus of claim 37, further comprising a file server accessible by the first and second conversion software modules, wherein the EPS file, the PDF file and the normalized EPS file are stored on the file server.

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